

Membership Balance Plan Advisory Committee for Polar Programs

1. Name

Advisory Committee for Polar Programs ("the Committee"), #1130

2. Authority

This committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. and the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §1861 et. seq.

3. Mission/Function

The Committee will provide advice and recommendations concerning support for research, education and related activities in all the directions for and impact of Foundation polar programs.

The Committee will review and advise on the impact of research support program in the disciplines and fields encompassed by the Office of Polar Programs (OPP). The Committee may advise OPP on program management, overall program balance, and other aspects of program performance. The Committee may advise on the impact of overall NSF-wide policies on the polar communities.

4. Points of View

The Committee consists of members who are appointed by the Director, OPP. The Committee will consist of approximately 15 members. There will be a regular rotation of members. Primary considerations are:

- Members should have recognized pertinent knowledge, expertise or demonstrated ability.
- Within reasonable limits, members' field of specialty should be complementary within the group.

Federal employee members will be designated as Regular Government Employees (RGEs). Individuals outside the Federal Government will be designated Special Government Employees (SGE). The members will provide their own best independent judgment based on their individual expertise.

5. Other Balance Factors

To the extent practicable, other factors considered are:

- Qualified individuals reflecting small, medium, and large organizations, as well as public and private organizations
- Qualified individuals reflecting underrepresented groups, such as ethnic minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities
- Qualified individuals reflecting a range of ages
- Qualified individuals reflecting different geographical areas

6. Candidate Identification Process

On behalf of the Director, OPP staff will solicit suggestions for potential members from a wide range of sources, including but not limited to: senior NSF management, knowledgeable NSF program staff, other Federal agencies, and recommendations from the public.

Suggestions will be reviewed and potential candidates will be identified taking into consideration professional and personal qualifications, experience, fields of expertise, and other balance factors. A short list of the best qualified candidates will be developed and discussed. The Director, OPP will identify the top candidates and they will be contacted for interest and availability.

When a vacancy occurs and it is determined that a replacement is necessary, the list of suggestions will be used as a source for potential replacements.

7. Subcommittee Balance

The process used to determine advisory committee member balance for the Committee will be used for subcommittees that may be created.

8. Other

There are currently no other known factors affecting the balance of the Committee.

9. Date Prepared/Updated

This Membership Balance Plan was prepared on MAY 2 - 2011



Karl A. Erb
Director, Office of Polar Programs